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February 2, 2004

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Facsimile Transmission12 pages including this page

TO: Examiner LoAn H. Thanh
 Art Unit 3763
 Fax No.: (703) 872-9306
 Phone No.:

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Feb 04 2004

RE: Applicants: Vincent E. Bryan et al.

Application No. 10/039,240
 SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

Our Reference: 170134.401

OFFICIAL

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**PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO
 EXAMINER LOAN H. THANH
 ART UNIT 3763**

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Transmittal Form (1 Page)
 Fee Transmittal (+ copy) (2 Pages)
 Second Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)
 Total pages including cover sheet: 12

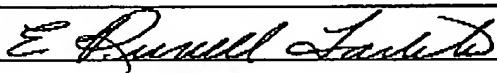
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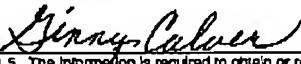
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| | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|------------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM | | Application Number | 10/039,240 |
| <i>(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | | Filing Date | January 4, 2002 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Vincent E. Bryan |
| | | Art Unit | 3763 |
| | | Examiner Name | LoAn H. Thanh |
| | | Attorney Docket No. | 170134.401 |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement; Form PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Cited References <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 C.F.R. 1.52 or 1.53 <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |
| Remarks | | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | |
| Individual Name | E. Russel Tarleton | Customer Number 00500 |
| Signature |  | |
| Date | February 2, 2004 | |

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. | | |
| Typed or printed name | Ginny Culver | |
| Signature |  | Date: February 2, 2004 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. 452922.1.DOC

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ **564**)

| | | Complete if Known | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Application Number | 10/039,240 | | |
| Filing Date | January 4, 2002 | | |
| First Named Inventor | Vincent E. Bryan | | |
| Examiner Name | LoAn H. Thanh | | |
| Art Unit | 3763 | | |
| Attorney Docket No. | 170134.401 | | |

| METHOD OF PAYMENT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deposit Account: Deposit Account Number: 19-1090 Deposit Account Name: Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Director is authorized to (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayments <input type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application <input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any deficiencies to the above-identified deposit account. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FEE CALCULATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. BASIC FILING FEE <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity</th> <th>Small Entity</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1001</td> <td>770</td> <td>2001</td> <td>385</td> <td>Utility filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1002</td> <td>340</td> <td>2002</td> <td>170</td> <td>Design filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1003</td> <td>530</td> <td>2003</td> <td>265</td> <td>Plant filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1004</td> <td>770</td> <td>2004</td> <td>385</td> <td>Reissue filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1005</td> <td>180</td> <td>2005</td> <td>80</td> <td>Provisional filing fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">SUBTOTAL (1)</td> <td>(\$)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | Large Entity | Small Entity | | | | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid | 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | | 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | | 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | | 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | | 1005 | 180 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | | SUBTOTAL (1) | | | | (\$) | |
| Large Entity | Small Entity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1005 | 180 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUBTOTAL (1) | | | | (\$) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity</th> <th>Small Entity</th> <th>Extra Claims</th> <th>Fee from below</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1202</td> <td>18</td> <td>2202</td> <td>9</td> <td>Claims in excess of 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1201</td> <td>86</td> <td>2201</td> <td>43</td> <td>Independent claims in excess of 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1203</td> <td>280</td> <td>2203</td> <td>145</td> <td>Multiple dependent claim, if not paid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1204</td> <td>86</td> <td>2204</td> <td>43</td> <td>** Reissue independent claims over original patent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1205</td> <td>18</td> <td>2205</td> <td>9</td> <td>** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">SUBTOTAL (2)</td> <td>(\$ 564)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | Large Entity | Small Entity | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 | 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | 1203 | 280 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent | 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | SUBTOTAL (2) | | | | (\$ 564) | | | | | | | |
| Large Entity | Small Entity | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1203 | 280 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUBTOTAL (2) | | | | (\$ 564) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *For number previously paid, if greater; For Reissue, see above | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| FEE CALCULATION (continued) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|--|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|------|-----|------|----|-------------------------------------|--|------|----|------|----|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|---------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|---|--|------|------|------|------|--|--|------|-------|------|-------|---|--|------|-----|------|----|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|---|--|------|-----|------|-----|--|--|------|------|------|-----|---|--|------|------|------|------|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|--------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|---|--|------|-----|------|----|----------------------------------|--|------|------|------|-----|------------------------------------|--|------|------|------|-----|--------------------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|-----------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|-------------------------------|--|------|----|------|----|-------------------------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|---|--|------|----|------|----|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|---|--|------|-----|------|-----|--|--|------|-----|------|-----|---|--|------|-----|------|-----|---|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| 3. ADDITIONAL FEES <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity</th> <th>Small Entity</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1051</td> <td>130</td> <td>2051</td> <td>65</td> <td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1052</td> <td>50</td> <td>2052</td> <td>25</td> <td>Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1053</td> <td>130</td> <td>1053</td> <td>130</td> <td>Non-English specification</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1812</td> <td>2520</td> <td>1812</td> <td>2520</td> <td>For filing a request for ex parte reexamination</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1804</td> <td>820*</td> <td>1804</td> <td>820*</td> <td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1805</td> <td>1840*</td> <td>1805</td> <td>1840*</td> <td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1251</td> <td>110</td> <td>2251</td> <td>55</td> <td>Extension for reply within first month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1252</td> <td>420</td> <td>2252</td> <td>210</td> <td>Extension for reply within second month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1253</td> <td>950</td> <td>2253</td> <td>475</td> <td>Extension for reply within third month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1254</td> <td>1480</td> <td>2254</td> <td>740</td> <td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1255</td> <td>2010</td> <td>2255</td> <td>1005</td> <td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1401</td> <td>330</td> <td>2401</td> <td>185</td> <td>Notice of Appeal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1402</td> <td>330</td> <td>2402</td> <td>165</td> <td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1403</td> <td>290</td> <td>2403</td> <td>145</td> <td>Request for oral hearing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1451</td> <td>1510</td> <td>1451</td> <td>1510</td> <td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1452</td> <td>110</td> <td>2452</td> <td>55</td> <td>Petition to revive - unavoidable</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1453</td> <td>1330</td> <td>2453</td> <td>665</td> <td>Petition to revive - unintentional</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1501</td> <td>1330</td> <td>2501</td> <td>685</td> <td>Utility issue fee (or reissue)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1502</td> <td>480</td> <td>2502</td> <td>240</td> <td>Design issue fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1503</td> <td>840</td> <td>2503</td> <td>320</td> <td>Plant issue fee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1480</td> <td>130</td> <td>1480</td> <td>130</td> <td>Petitions to the Commissioner</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1607</td> <td>50</td> <td>1607</td> <td>50</td> <td>Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1808</td> <td>180</td> <td>1808</td> <td>180</td> <td>Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8021</td> <td>40</td> <td>8021</td> <td>40</td> <td>Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1809</td> <td>770</td> <td>2809</td> <td>385</td> <td>Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1810</td> <td>770</td> <td>2810</td> <td>385</td> <td>For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1801</td> <td>770</td> <td>2801</td> <td>385</td> <td>Request for Continued Examination (RCE)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1802</td> <td>900</td> <td>1802</td> <td>900</td> <td>Request for expedited examination of a design application</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">Other fee (specify) _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid</td> <td>SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | Large Entity | Small Entity | | | | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid | 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | | 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | | 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | | 1812 | 2520 | 1812 | 2520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | | 1804 | 820* | 1804 | 820* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | | 1805 | 1840* | 1805 | 1840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | | 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | | 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | | 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | | 1254 | 1480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | | 1255 | 2010 | 2255 | 1005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | | 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 185 | Notice of Appeal | | 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | | 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | | 1451 | 1510 | 1451 | 1510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | | 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | | 1453 | 1330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | | 1501 | 1330 | 2501 | 685 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | | 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | | 1503 | 840 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | | 1480 | 130 | 1480 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | | 1607 | 50 | 1607 | 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | | 1808 | 180 | 1808 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | | 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | | 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a)) | | 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b)) | | 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | | 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | | Other fee (specify) _____ | | | | | Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid | | | | SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0) |
| Large Entity | Small Entity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1812 | 2520 | 1812 | 2520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1804 | 820* | 1804 | 820* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1805 | 1840* | 1805 | 1840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1254 | 1480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1255 | 2010 | 2255 | 1005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 185 | Notice of Appeal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1451 | 1510 | 1451 | 1510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1453 | 1330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1501 | 1330 | 2501 | 685 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1503 | 840 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1480 | 130 | 1480 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1607 | 50 | 1607 | 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1808 | 180 | 1808 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a)) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b)) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other fee (specify) _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid | | | | SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| SUBMITTED BY | | | | Customer Number |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Name /Print/Type | E. Russell Tarleton | Registration No. Attorney/Agent | 31,800 | |
| Signature | <i>E. Russell Tarleton</i> | Date | February 2, 2004 | 00500 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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February 2, 2004
Date

Henry Culver

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Vincent E. Bryan et al.
 Application No. : 10/039,240
 Filed : January 4, 2002
 For : SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Feb 04 2004

Examiner : LoAn H. Thanh
 Art Unit : 3763
 Docket No. : 170134.401
 Date : February 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

OFFICIAL

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

New claims 24-54 are presented herein below. In the previous response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 17, 2003, and the Office Action dated December 17, 2003, applicants previously elected Group I, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, and 13, for examination at this time. Applicants further elected to prosecute the species corresponding to Figures 1 and 9 and subspecies corresponding to Figures 11a, 11b, of which claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, and 13 read thereon. Entry and consideration of new claims 24-54 are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.